

Ken's Korner Newsletter



Committed to HIV/AIDS Advocacy

November 2005



Agency Announcements

Changing Status of Benefit Programs

The new DHS-49 Form: Medical Examination Report Rev. 4-05 replaces all previous editions. Please discard all previous editions. The Medical Examination Report is completed by the doctor and can be used to verify disability for Medicaid and SDA programs. (Reminder: an AIDS diagnosis meets SDA disability requirements. All other SDA requirements must also be met.) You may get a copy of this form emailed or mailed to you. Contact Ken at 1-877-342-2437 or papek@michigan.gov.

Other Announcements

World AIDS Day 2005 Event!!: The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) World AIDS Day Celebration 2005 will feature a display of several AIDS quilt panels, speeches from state dignitaries, including DHWDC Director Loretta Davis-Satterla, as well as performances and singers and writers. The celebration will be held December 1st from 11am to 1pm in the Cadillac Building, located in the heart of the Detroit's New Center Area. *All are welcome!!*

Project HOPE: Please join the Advisory Board for an afternoon of discussion, planning and progress. The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 12, 2006 at 1:30. The location is Goodwill Industries on Grand River in Detroit. For more information please contact Kenneth Pape at (313) 456-1678.

New Brochure for HIV/AIDS Advocacy Services: We have new informational brochures available for distribution. Please contact Kenneth Pape at (313) 456-1678 or e-mail at papek@michigan.gov to request copies.

AIDS Partnership Michigan (APM): "Knowledge is Power" bracelets can now be purchased for a suggested donation of \$2.00 each. All proceeds will benefit the programs of APM. Please visit www.aidspartnership.org for ordering information.

Do you have announcements?

E-mail them to Ben Hayes, intern (bth@umich.edu) or Kenneth Pape, Office Coordinator (papek@michigan.gov) by the first Monday of the month.



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WORLD AIDS DAY 2005 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

The World AIDS Campaign is calling on individuals and groups to support to the theme *Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise.* aimed at world leaders, governments and policy makers. The intention is to establish an international campaign to hold our leaders accountable for their promises and to take action

Achieving this goal will require the support and action of people from all walks of life, such as individuals and groups, members of trade unions, faith-based organizations, and the inclusive voices of women, men, and young people wanting a better world.

The goal is to raise consciousness about HIV/AIDS and make people aware of the fact that the disease is still severely affecting millions of people. Encourage people to wear red ribbons and bracelets and to speak about HIV/AIDS to friends and coworkers. Red ribbons are easy to make if you just get some ribbon or yarn and safety pins from a pharmacy or craft store.

For more information on World AIDS Day 2005 or for downloadable posters and red ribbons visit: www.worldaidsday.org



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World AIDS Day, Call for Submissions... In celebration of *World AIDS Day 2005—International Day of Action* the Michigan Department of Community Health, Division of Health, Wellness & Disease Control is sponsoring an even on December 1st and for the event is seeking submissions of creative writing. These pieces can be fiction, non-fiction, poetry, prose, and essays. Entries should relate to the **celebration** theme and be no longer than **500** words.

- **Six finalists** will perform at the MDCH World AIDS Day celebration, December 1st, 2005 and will be published at *TheDetroit.com*, Detroit's own online art and culture magazine.
- **First Prize:** \$100 and publication in Michigan HIV and STD News
- **2 Runner-Ups:** \$50 each

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Send submissions to:

Ann Miceli, MDCH/HAPIS
Cadillac Building
3056 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 3-150
Detroit, MI 48202
mycelia@michigan.gov
Ph: 313.456.3112
Fx: 313.456.4428

Please include with submissions your name, a brief bio, and a telephone number.



Needle Exchange and Harm Reduction Save Lives

Recently the HIV/AIDS Resource Center (HARC) of Ypsilanti lost their exemption from the city of Ypsilanti to provide a needle exchange program to local injection-drug users (IDUs). This was really a disappointment to the anti-HIV advocacy community and to the people representing the voices of IDUs because needle exchange is one of the most effective harm reduction strategies available to public health practitioners.

Providing easily accessible, clean needles can dramatically reduce the spread of harmful infection from blood-borne pathogens, such as the HIV virus. Additionally, needle-exchange programs provide one of the most effective avenues to accessing sometimes hard to reach IDUs with additional health interventions, such as resources to quit illegal and addictive drugs, promotion of safe-sex practices, information about other dangerous and common infections, such as hepatitis C, and resources and training to prevent and respond to overdoses. There is an overwhelming amount of empirical evidence showing that needle-exchange programs are effective in reducing the transmission of HIV and virtually no evidence to support common criticisms of such programs, for example that needle-exchange condones or encourages increased injection-drug use. In fact, needle-exchange programs can be an effective strategy in *reducing* injection-drug use.

Collecting data from your clients and your agency's service areas may be critical in advocating for the most appropriate services that prevent the spread of diseases and save lives. This data might include the number of users of injection drugs, the need and demand for clean needles, the prevalence of HIV and hepatitis C, and the modes of transmissions for blood-borne pathogens common in your agency's service areas.

For information or ideas on how to collect such data contact local academic institutions or other organizations that may be providing successful needle-exchange programs.

The Chicago Recovery Alliance www.anypositivechange.org has lots of useful information about the value of harm reduction and about establishing a non-intrusive, well-trained and effective needle-exchange program.